

The Tyson Family – Children

Elbert and Ruberta had seven sons and one daughter. The oldest son, Erskine, died shortly after birth. The other six sons and one daughter lived full lives.

Except for Edwin Louis, entire family joined the Seven Day Adventist Church, with three of the sons becoming ministers in that denomination. The one daughter, Olive Mae, married a Seven Day Adventist minister, James Grey Fulfer, and she, along with her husband, were missionaries for the church for many years.

The oldest surviving son was Elbert, Jr. who became a Seven Day Adventist minister, and lived most of his life in Wisconsin. He was, however, called to churches in both Indiana and Nebraska. His retirement home was in Wisconsin.

Next in line was John Flanagan Tyson who was known as “Jack”. Jack remained in Pitt County, and took over his father’s farm and operated same throughout most of his life. Jack and his family lived on Ballard’s Crossroads Road not far from the original home place.

The next son was Robert who also became a minister in the Seven Day Adventist Church. Robert’s education was at Andrews University and Columbia Union College, Washington, D.C. He was ordained a minister in the Seven Day Adventist Church in 1946 and served as Superintendent of Parochial Schools in five states from 1946 to 1975. Robert traveled to at least twenty different countries as a student of archeology and ancient history. His personal hobby is botany and he constructed an arboretum containing 642 varieties of plants and trees at his retirement home which he built on Ballard’s Crossroads Road in Pitt County.

Edwin Louis graduated from Duke University with a degree in biology, and received his doctorate in Zoology from Florida State University. Over the years he worked for the Smithsonian Institute in Korea and worked for the National Institute of Health in Bolivia. He also worked with the Brazilian Government helping to develop a commercial fishing industry. He was also a professor of biology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida and taught biology in the Panama Canal Zone. Edwin served in the Army in World War II (1942-1945) as a corpsman. In retirement he moved to Madison, Georgia.

Lawrence Thorne was also a Seven Day Adventist minister, practicing as an independent, being called to a number of churches primarily in Georgia and a few in N.C. His retirement home was in Green County, North Carolina.

Olive Mae, the only girl, married Rev. James Grey Fulfer, a Seven Day Adventist minister. Jim and Olive spent many years as missionaries for the Seven Day Adventist Church, a substantial amount of time being in Haiti. Jim and Olive retired to the home willed to Olive by her Aunt Seba Flanagan Quinerly in Greenville, North Carolina.